

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 ACDA-19 OMB-01 CU-04 NIC-01 DRC-01 /143 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0036

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: YOUNG SOCIALIST (JUSO) CONGRESS, JANUARY 25-27:
INTERNAL DISUNITY AND ANOTHER STEP LEFTWARDS

SUMMARY. THE SPD'S YOUTH WING HAS MOVED EVEN FURTHER
TOWARD THE LEFT. INTERNAL DIFFERENCES ON TACTICS AND
STRATEGY HAVE SHARPENED, AND THREE NEARLY EQUALLY
POWERFUL FACTIONS HAVE EMERGED. IN THE SHORT TERM,
THESE DEVELOPMENTS WILL PROBABLY HURT THE SPD, BUT THEY
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WILL ALSO LESSEN THE INFLUENCE OF THE JUSOS IN THE

MOTHER PARTY.

END SUMMARY.

1. THE JUSO CONVENTION IN MUNICH OPENED WITH A DISPLAY OF SOLIDARITY FOR THE "DEMOCRATIC/REVOLUTIONARY" FORCES IN GREECE AND CHILI, FEATURING A RABID ANTI-US AND ANTI-NATO SPEECH BY ANDREAS PAPANDREAO AND AN OVERLY-LONG AND UNINSPIRING STATEMENT READ BY BEATRICE ALLENDE. FOREIGN POLICY RESOLUTIONS PASSED NEARLY UNANIMOUSLY, WITH LITTLE DEBATE AND ALONG USUAL LINES: SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTIONARIES IN GREECE AND CHILI, DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA AND GUINEA-BISSAO AND OPPOSITION TO SOUTH AFRICA, "US IMPERIALISM" IN LATIN AMERICA, MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS, AND NATO. THERE WAS A CONSENSUS THAT THE JUSOS SHOULD COOPERATE WITH COMMUNIST AS WELL AS SOCIALIST YOUTH GROUPS IN EUROPE. REPRESENTATIVES OF SOVIET, EAST EUROPEAN, FRENCH AND ITALIAN COMMUNIST YOUTH GROUPS AS WELL AS OF EUROPEAN SOCIALIST YOUTH GROUPS PARTICIPATED IN WORKING GROUPS OF THE CONGRESS. (THE YUGOSLAV GROUP WALKED OUT, HOWEVER, WHEN THE DELEGATES PASSED A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING YUGOSLAV PROFESSORS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT.)

2. BUT THE WORK OF THE CONVENTION FOCUSED ON DOMESTIC POLITICAL STRATEGY AND ECONOMIC POLICY, AND ON THESE ISSUES THERE WAS NO UNITY. LONG WINDED DEBATE, HIGH ON THEORETICAL JARGON AND SHORT ON SUBSTANCE, REFLECTED THE NEARLY EQUAL STRENGTH OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, THE NON-REVISIONISTS, AND THE STAMOKAPS. THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ESPOUSED THE "DOUBLE STRATEGY", GIVING EQUAL WEIGHT TO PARTY/INSTITUTIONAL AND MASS MOBILIZATION EFFORTS. THE NON-REVISIONISTS EMPHASIZE MASS MOBILIZATION. THE VIRTUALLY COMMUNIST STAMOKAPS BELIEVE THE STATE IS THE AGENT OF MONOPOLY CAPITALISM AND FAVOR A CELL-STRUCTURED PARTY.

3. OUTGOING CHAIRMAN WOLFGANG ROTH'S EXECUTIVE BOARD WAS THE MOST CONSERVATIVE AND ALSO THE WEAKEST FORCE AT THE CONVENTION. ALTHOUGH THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OPPOSED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE SPD'S RECENT "SELL OUT" TO THE FDP ON INDUSTRIAL CODETERMINATION AND PROFIT-SHARING AND SCOLDED THE MOTHER PARTY FOR ITS "TOTAL LACK OF AN ECONOMIC POLICY", IT CAME DOWN FIRMLY AND EXPLICITLY IN SUPPORT OF PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY AND GRADUAL REFORMS, THROUGH THE PARTY AND INSTITUTIONS. BUT ITS MOTIONS WERE SOUNDLY DEFEATED.

4. THE MAJOR "DECISIONS" OF THE CONVENTION, ON JUSO

STRATEGY AND DOMESTIC ECONOMIC POLICY, ARE CONFUSING AND CONTRADICTIONARY. THEY ARE BASED ON MOTIONS TABLED BY THE SOUTH HESSE DELEGATION LED BY INCOMING CHAIRMAN WIECZOREK-ZEUL. ALREADY TO THE LEFT OF ROTH'S EXECUTIVE BOARD IN ORIGINAL DRAFT, THEY WERE AMENDED ON THE FLOOR TO BEAR HEAVY IMPRINTS OF BOTH STAMOKAP AND NON-REVISIONIST IDEAS. EMPHASIS IS ON EXTRA-PARLIAMENTARY TACTICS, SOCIALIZATION OF KEY INDUSTRIES, AND CONTROL OF INVESTMENTS.

5. THE NEW JUSO CHAIRMAN, 31 YEAR OLD HEIDEMARIE WIECZOREK-ZEUL, WILL HAVE PROBLEMS. SHE IS INTELLIGENT,

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ARTICULATE, SELF-POSSESSED, AND APPEARS TO HAVE CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL SAVVY. SOMEWHAT TO THE LEFT OF ROTH, AT LEAST IN HER CURRENT IMAGE, SHE EXPRESSED ACUTE AWARENESS AT THE CLOSE OF THE CONVENTION OF THE NEED FOR COOPERATION WITH THE SPD AND OF THE DANGER OF FRACTIONALIZATION WITHIN THE JUSOS. BUT ALTHOUGH SHE RAN UNOPPOSED, 29 OF THE 283 DELEGATES ABSTAINED AND 50 OPPOSED HER ELECTION, AND THE NEW SEVEN MEMBER BOARD

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INCLUDES ONE STAMOKAP. (SEE FRANKFURT'S A-203 FOR BIO.)

6. THE SPD "ESTABLISHMENT" HAS MADE LITTLE ATTEMPT TO HIDE ITS DISMAY OVER THE OUTCOME OF THE JUSOS CONVENTION. HEATED INTERNAL DEBATE AND "AN INTERESTING CONVENTION" HAD BEEN EXPECTED, BUT THE STRENGTH OF THE STAMOKAP INFLUENCE CAME AS A SURPRISE. THE STAMOKAP FACTION, WHILE "ONLY" ABOUT 20-25 PERCENT OF THE DELEGATES, EXERCISED AN EVEN GREATER INFLUENCE THROUGH COALITIONS AND SHIFTING MAJORITIES. SPD SECRETARY-GENERAL BOERNER COMMENTED TO AN EMBOFF THAT EVEN THOUGH THE JUSOS' DISUNITY WILL LESSEN THEIR IMPACT WITHIN THE SPD, THE INCREASING LEFT RADICALISM OF THE JUSOS WILL BADLY HURT THE SPD IN THE EYES OF THE ELECTORATE. HE ISSUED A STATEMENT EXPRESSING "REGRET THAT THE JUSOS HAD ENGAGED IN A SEMINAR-TYPE DISCUSSION WHICH HAD CONTRIBUTED LITTLE TO THE PRACTICAL WORK OF THE PARTY." EVEN YOUNG LEFT SPD BUNDESTAG MEMBERS COMMENTED PRIVATELY THAT THE JUSOS ARE "NO LONGER TALKING THEIR LANGUAGE." JOCHEN STEFFEN'S KEYNOTE SPEECH, WHILE TYPICALLY LEFT, ALSO WARNED THE JUSOS TO STEER CLEAR OF EXTREMIST DOGMA. THE PARTY'S LIAISON MAN WITH THE JUSOS, HANS PETER WEBER, LABELLED CONVENTION DEVELOPMENTS AS "VERY BAD". HE NOTED THAT THE JUSOS EXECUTIVE BOARD REMAINS TO THE RIGHT OF THE CONVENTION "DECISIONS" AND THAT THE MOTHER PARTY CONTINUES TO WIELD THE LONG END OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCIAL STICK. BUT STAMOKAPS AND NON-REVISIONISTS HAVE CAPTURED CONTROL OF MANY LOCAL DISTRICTS, ESPECIALLY BERLIN, HAMBURG, AND HANNOVER.

7. COMMENT: THE JUSOS WILL PERHAPS COME TO REALIZE THAT FRACTIONALIZATION IS A LUXURY WHICH THEY CAN ILL AFFORD. SOME WILL PROBABLY LEARN TO ACCOMMODATE THEMSELVES TO THE SPD. OTHERS WILL LEAVE THE PARTY OR BE

EXPELLED. BUT FRUSTRATIONS OVER THE BRANDT GOVERNMENT'S
APPARENT INABILITY TO DEAL WITH THE PRICE AS WELL AS
THE WAGE END OF "STAGFLATION" AND THE RECENT INTENSI-
FICATION OF SUSPICIONS ABOUT THE POWERS OF MULTINATION-
AL CORPORATIONS SEEM TO HAVE GIVEN AN ADDED BOOST TO
LEFT EXTREMISTS.

HILLENBRAND

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